



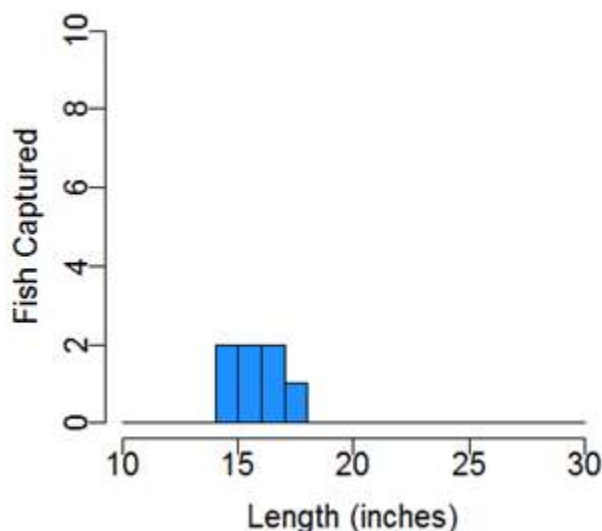
Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Smith Lake, Sawyer County, 2015

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Smith Lake on April 7-8, 2015 to assess the adult walleye, northern pike, and black crappie populations in the lake. Eight nets were set overnight for two nights which resulted in 15 total net-nights of effort (one net was compromised by weather). An electrofishing survey conducted on June 9, 2015 documented the status of largemouth bass and bluegill but also provided information on juvenile walleye. Three and three-quarter miles of shoreline were shocked throughout the lake. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Walleye (Adult)



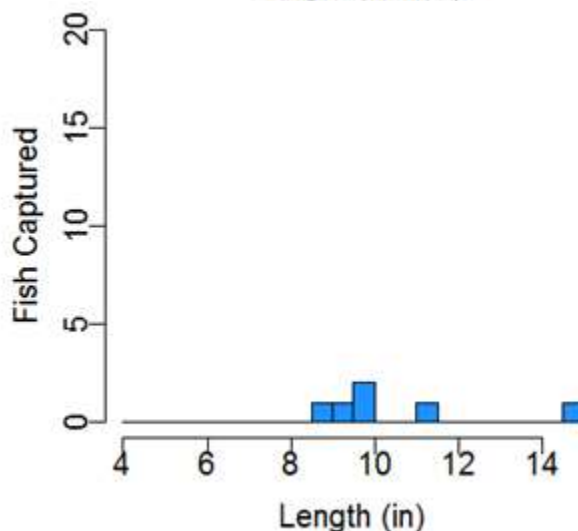
Captured 0.5 per net-night ≥ 10 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 15"$	71%
Preferred Size $\geq 20"$	0%



Walleye (Juvenile)



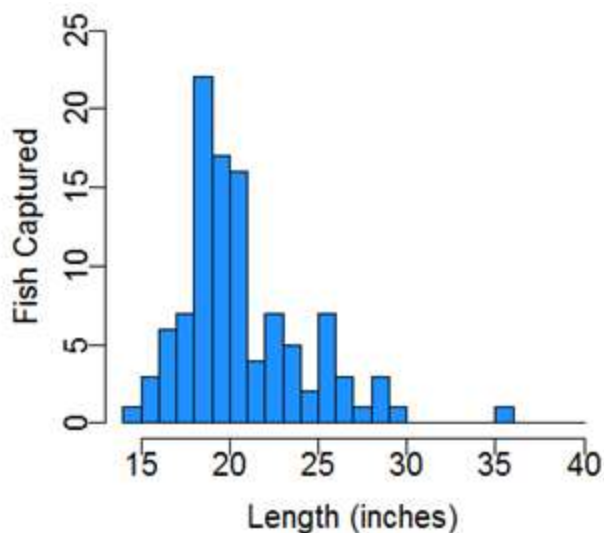
Captured 1.6 per mile ≤ 15 inches



Northern Pike



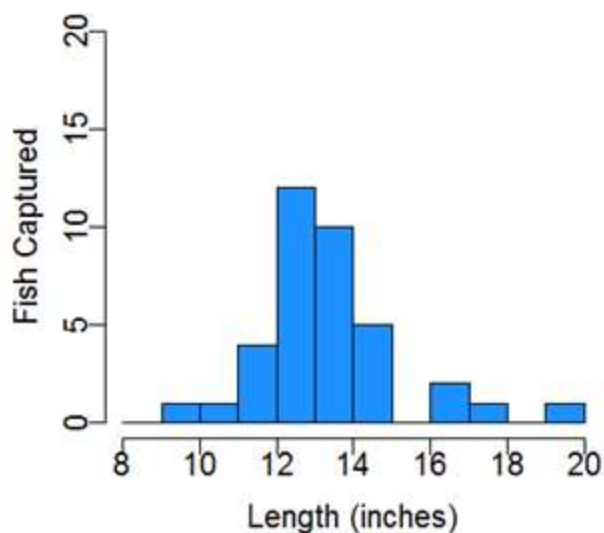
Captured 7 per net-night ≥ 14 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 21 "	32%
Preferred Size ≥ 28 "	5%



Largemouth bass



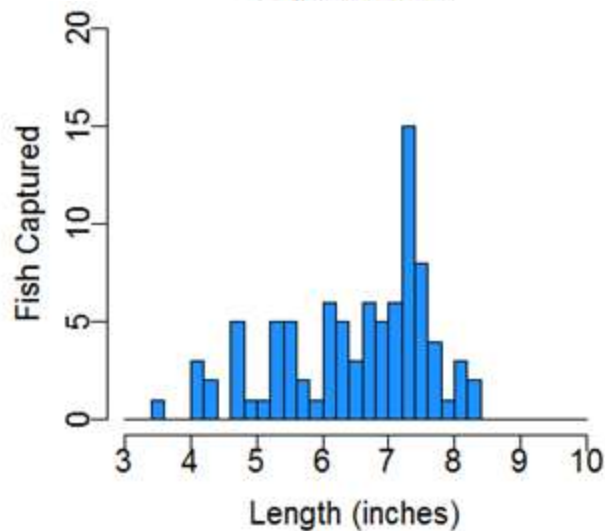
Captured 10 per mile ≥ 8 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 12 "	84%
Preferred Size ≥ 15 "	11%



Bluegill



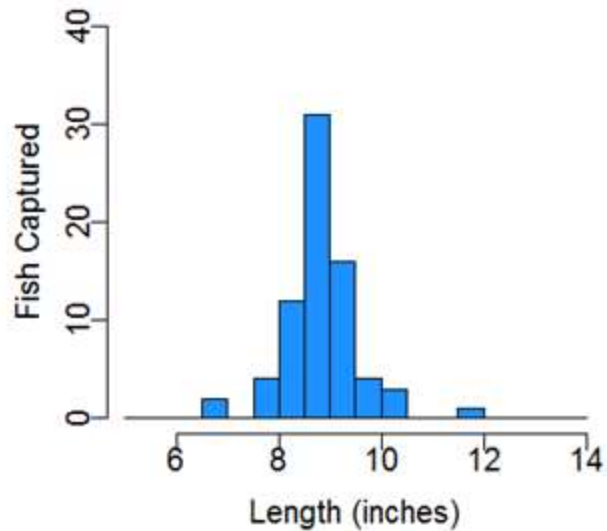
Captured 90 per mile ≥ 3 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 6 "	71%
Preferred Size ≥ 8 "	6%



Black Crappie



Captured 5 per net-night ≥ 5 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 8 "	92%
Preferred Size ≥ 10 "	5%



Summary of Results

Walleye have been struggling in Smith Lake for over a decade and the results of this survey illustrate that with low overall walleye catch. However, the catch rate here is higher than the last survey (2010) and includes some young adult fish which had not been seen in Smith Lake for many years. Stocking of extended growth walleye began in 2013 and is planned to continue in odd numbered years. Some small walleye that were likely from the cohort stocked in 2013 were observed in the electrofishing portion of this survey, but overall survival of this stocked class appears to be relatively low.

Northern pike are common to abundant in Smith Lake although the average size is relatively poor. Anglers interested in harvesting smaller pike (~20 inches) are encouraged to do so. Some larger pike were captured in this survey.

Largemouth bass were captured in moderate abundance but with generally poor size. This pattern has been mirrored on many other lakes in the area. A proposal has been submitted to remove the 14 inch minimum length limit and allow harvest of smaller bass.

Bluegill were captured at a moderate rate but with a high proportion of quality size fish including many in the 7-9 inch range. Panfish on Smith Lake are managed with a 10 daily bag limit (all panfish species combined). These reduced bag limits have a strong track record of creating or maintaining higher average size of panfish, particularly bluegill, and Smith Lake appears to be experiencing those benefits. Most crappie captured in this survey were over 8 inches, though few were over 10 inches.



Fisheries Technicians Russ Warwick and Scott Braden with a large Smith Lake pike.

Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County

Survey conducted by Max Wolter, Russ Warwick (Fisheries Technician), and Scott Braden (Fisheries Technician)

Special thanks to volunteer Doug Casina

Reviewed and approved by Mike Vogelsang